(c) whether the non-gazetted employees Association of National Museum has submitter memorandum to the Prime Minister containing certain allegations against the Director General of the Museum; and —

(d) if so, what are the main charges and what action has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The main allegations *inter .alia* relate to the high handedness, pur chase of art objects of dubious au thenticity and misuse of public funds. The matter is under consideration.

केरल में विकिरण के प्रभाव के कारण विकलांग बच्चों का जन्म

914. **श्री शान्ति त्यागी :** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि थोरियम और यूरेनियम के विकिरण के कारण केरल के समुद्रतटीय क्षेत्र में विकलांग बच्चे पैदा हो रहे हैं तथा वहां के लोग कई अन्य बीमारियों से भी पीडित हैं ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार द्वारा इन स्थानों पर विकिरण के प्रभाव को रोकने के लिए क्या उपाय किए जा रहे हैं ?

विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय में राज्यमंत्री साथ में मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय में शिक्षा विभाग में राज्य मंत्री का अतिरिक्त प्रभार (प्रो० एम० जी० के० मेनन) : (क) समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित रिपोर्ट सरकार की जानकारी में आई है । तथापि जो जांच पहले की जा चुकी है उनसे यह पाया गया है कि केरल के समुद्रतटीय क्षेत्रों में जन्म लेने वाले बालकों में विकलाग बालकों का अनुपात ऐसा नहीं है कि उसे कोई विशेष असामान्य अनुपात कहा जा सके । इस विषय में वैज्ञानिक अन्वेषण भारत में तथा अन्य देशों में किए जाते रहे हैं ।

(ख) यह अनुमान लगाने के लिए कि यह समस्या कितनी ध्यान देने योग्य है, सरकार ब्यौरेवार रिपोर्ट की तथा सही आंकड़ों के अध्ययन और विश्लेषण की प्रतीक्षा कर रही है । तथापि, यह समस्या उतनी संकटपूर्ण दिखाई नहीं देती जितनी की बताई गई है ।

Ensuring better working conditions Of Scientists

915. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

<a) what steps are being taken to improve the working conditions of scientists in India;

(b) whether it is a fact that many good scientists choose to settle in the U.S. or Europe because of inadequate remuneration and unsatisfactory working conditions in India, resulting in a brain-drain; and

(c) what steps are being taken to ensure better opportunities in India so that the brain-drain could be arrested?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY "WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENT OF EDU-

CATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. "M. G. K. MENON): (a) to (c) A number of measures have been taken from time to time to minimise the outflow, as also to attract scientists technologists and doctors settled abroad to come back to the country. It is true that some scientists do migrate to other countries in search of jobs. However, it has not been possible to maintain a record.

Several schemes and programmes have been taken up for creation of employment opportunities in new areas of Science and Technology as well as increased efforts in existing areas particularly in the production and services sector. Some of these are:

—Increase in the outlay for science and technology sector in successive Five Year Plans.

—Creation of new scientific Departments/Organisations such as Departments of Biotechnology, Ocean Development, Environment, Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) etc.

—Conscious efforts to expand industrial production and services sectors of advanced nature and those which are knowledge based.

—Creation of a Special Cell in the Ministry of Industry for assisting non-resident Indians to secure expeditious clearance of their applications for setting up of industrial units in this country. Similarly some states have also set up special cells and Departments to encourage and assit non-resident Indians to come back and set up industries/ professional ventures.

—Setting up many more universities/colleges 'centres of excellence' advanced studies:

—Provision for temporary placement of scientists and technologists under the Scheme of Scientists Pool.

—Creation of supernumeracy posts.

—Programmes launched on the basis of which core groups of professionals have been created in the country with all necessary modern facilities required for pursuing research in new and frontier areas of science.

—Invitation to professional men and women of Indian origin who have distinguished themselves in their fields of activities and are settled abroad for short term technical assignments to assist in our developmental efforts in frontier areas of technology and emerging areas of science through various programmes.

—Science and technology based training for entrepreneurial deve' lopment.

—Delegation of enhanced admini strative and financial powers to scientific institutions to improve working conditions of scientists.

—Provision of facilities for import of equipment for professionals returning from abroad.

—Launch of manpower development training/retraining programmes through offering of associate-ships (fellowships | courses etc.

Material purchased by B.T. & T. **Ltd.**

916. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA; Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the value of material purchased by Electronics Trade and Technology Development Corporation Limited, for the low cost Computer Project since January 1989, till date;